

Application No.: 09/932,910
Response dated April 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present claims, in light of the attached claim clarifications and the Remarks, which follow, is respectfully requested.

Claims now before the Examiner are 1-2, 4-13, and 15-36.

The numbering in this response will follow that of the Examiner's Action of March 9, 2004.

Applicants' Agent thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview granted April 8, 2004.

Support for the amendment to R¹ and R⁵ in claims 1 and 12 is found at paragraph [017] at page 3, line 13 and at paragraph [020] at page 5, lines 22-25.

1. No response necessary.
2. Applicants intended that the "transition" term in claim 5 be removed, and in fact the term had already been removed, amended out, in a Preliminary Amendment filed with the RCE in November of 2003. Inclusion in the previously submitted Response was an error.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

3. *Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph*
Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims 1, and 12 address this Rejection.
4. *Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph*
Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims 1, and 12 address this Rejection.

Withdrawal of the Rejections is respectfully requested.

1998U020A[1].D1.US.116.4.8.04

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5. & 6. No response necessary.

All of the Examiner's Rejections have been addressed.


The claims are in condition for allowance.

Note is made that the correspondence should be sent to:

Douglas W. Miller
In representation of Univation Technologies, LLC
c/o Judith A. Kruger
5555 San Felipe, Suite 1950
Houston, Texas 77056
Facsimile: 713.892.3687

However the telephone number for Douglas W. Miller is (713) 780-7799.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas W. Miller
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 36,608

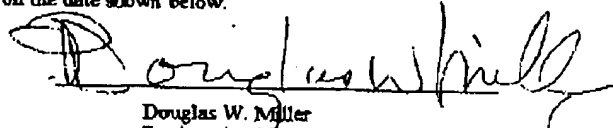
Southwest Patent Services
510 Bering Drive, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77057
(713) 780-7799

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

April 8, 2004

Date


Douglas W. Miller
Registration No. 36,608

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